## **BEFORE**

## THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF

## **SOUTH CAROLINA**

DOCKET NO. 2010-316-E - ORDER NO. 2010-662

## **SEPTEMBER 30, 2010**

IN RE: Application of South Carolina Electric & Gas
Company for Authorization to Replace and
Modify Its Revolving Credit Facility and
Renewals Thereof and to Replace and
Modify a Guaranty Agreement to Support a
Revolving Credit Facility for South Carolina
Fuel Company, Inc. and Renewals Thereof

ORDER AUTHORIZING
REPLACEMENT AND
CREDIT FACILITY AND
GUARANTY
AGREEMENT

AGREEMENT

This matter comes before the Public Service Commission of South Carolina (the "Commission") by way of an Application filed on September 13, 2010, by South Carolina Electric & Gas Company ("SCE&G" or "Company") for authorization to: (1) replace and modify the terms of its existing revolving credit facility, incur and repay indebtedness under such facility pursuant to the terms thereof, and issue notes evidencing such indebtedness, all in the manner hereinafter described; (2) enter into a guaranty agreement to support a proposed revolving credit facility for South Carolina Fuel Company, Inc. ("SCFC"); and (3) renew and modify, from time to time, such arrangements in the manner described herein. The Application was filed pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. § 58-27-1710 (1976, as amended) and 26 S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 103-823 (1976, as amended).

According to the Application, SCE&G proposes to replace and modify certain terms of its revolving credit facility with a syndicate of lenders, under which it will be able to borrow under one or more replacement credit facilities from time to time up to a

maximum amount of \$700,000,000 (the "SCE&G Facilities"). The Summary of Indicative Terms and Conditions of the SCE&G Facilities (the "SCE&G Term Sheet") was attached to the Application as Exhibit A and incorporated therein. SCE&G states that it expects one of the lenders in the syndication to serve as administrative agent for the SCE&G Facilities and that the lead lenders, or affiliates of which, will act as co-lead arrangers and will serve as syndication agents. The Company further states that borrowings under the SCE&G Facilities will be unsecured and will not encumber any of SCE&G's assets. Under the SCE&G Facilities, SCE&G's borrowings may remain outstanding until the SCE&G Facilities' final maturity dates, which are expected to range from three to five years after the closing date. In its Application, SCE&G proposes to continue to have the flexibility to periodically extend the maturity date of the SCE&G Facilities and to substitute participating lenders as market conditions may warrant. Moreover, SCE&G seeks flexibility to modify the terms of the SCE&G Facilities as the market conditions dictate in connection with any such renewals or extensions.

In its Application, SCE&G states that the SCE&G Facility will replace and modify SCE&G's existing \$400,000,000, five-year revolving credit facility with a scheduled maturity date of December 19, 2011. SCE&G also states that there are no borrowings outstanding under the existing credit facility as of the date of the Application.

According to the Application, interest payable on loans taken under the SCE&G Facilities will vary depending upon the interest rate option selected by SCE&G. The anticipated rate options are (i) Base Rate (highest of the (a) Federal Funds Rate as published by the Federal Reserve Bank of New York plus 0.5% (b) the prime commercial

rate of the Administrative Agent or (c) the daily LIBOR rate plus a spread which is based on the Company's credit ratings) and (ii) LIBOR for the applicable interest rate period plus a spread which is based on SCE&G's credit ratings. SCE&G also states that the anticipated spread to LIBOR will be 1.5% to 2.5%; however, the Federal Funds Rate, prime commercial lending rate and LIBOR rate components under the interest rate options may change significantly over time as market conditions change. The actual rate options will be determined by arm's length negotiations by SCE&G.

According to the Application, SCE&G may pay certain fees, including attorneys', accountants', arrangers' and agents' fees, and fees for similar services, in connection with the negotiation or consummation of the SCE&G Facilities or borrowings thereunder as described in the Application. According to the Application, SCE&G will pay a facilities fee and may pay a utilization fee as described in the SCE&G Term Sheet. SCE&G states that such fees are the result of arm's length negotiations with the lenders under the SCE&G Facilities, and are comparable to fees payable in similar transactions in the marketplace. SCE&G will also pay a participation fee to each lender under the SCE&G Facilities, to be determined pursuant to arm's length negotiations. SCE&G also expects to pay certain administrative fees based upon arm's length negotiations with the administrative agent and joint arrangers under the SCE&G Facilities, consisting of a one-time arrangement fee and an annual administrative fee. SCE&G may incur additional fees to periodically extend the maturity date or otherwise to amend the terms of the facilities.

According to the Application, the SCE&G Facilities will be used for the purposes of (a) providing liquidity to support the issuance and repayment of commercial paper, (b) interim financing of SCE&G's ongoing electric plant and gas facility construction, (c) working capital requirements, and (d) general corporate purposes. In addition, SCE&G states that it may continue to issue intermediate-term and long-term debt securities for these purposes, as authorized from time to time by this Commission.

In its Application, SCE&G also proposes to enter into a guaranty agreement (the "Guaranty") to support a revolving credit facility for SCFC with a syndicate of lenders, under which it may borrow from time to time a maximum amount of \$400,000,000 (the "SCFC Facility"). SCE&G states that it expects that lead lenders within the syndication will also serve as administrative agent and syndication agents, respectively, for the SCFC Facility. According to SCE&G, the indicative terms and conditions of the SCFC Facility will be substantially the same as the SCE&G Facility and are summarized in Exhibit B to the Application (the "SCFC Term Sheet"), except that the SCFC Facility could reasonably be expected to be collateralized. SCE&G states that borrowings under the SCFC Facility may remain outstanding until its final maturity date, which is expected to range from three to five years after the closing date. In its Application, SCE&G also proposes to enter into amendments to the Guaranty to cover periodic extensions of the maturity date of the SCFC Facility, modification of terms and substitutions of participating lenders as market conditions may warrant. The Company states that SCE&G will pay no fees in connection with the Guaranty of the SCFC Facility.

The Application states that the SCFC Facility will replace an existing five-year

revolving credit facility with a scheduled maturity date of December 19, 2011, in the

amount of \$250,000,000, which is also supported by an SCE&G guaranty. According to

SCE&G, there are no borrowings outstanding under the existing credit facility as of the

date of the Application.

SCE&G states that the SCFC Facility will be used by SCFC for the purposes of

(a) providing liquidity to support the issuance and repayment of commercial paper and

(b) to acquire, own, and provide financing and refinancing for SCE&G's nuclear fuel,

fossil fuel, and emission and other environmental allowance requirements.

After investigation by the South Carolina Office of Regulatory Staff and upon

full consideration by the Commission, the Commission is of the opinion, and so finds,

that the matters set forth in the Application and the exhibits thereto are proper; that the

purpose of the replacement and modification of the revolving credit facility and the

Guaranty to support a revolving credit facility of SCFC are proper; and that incurring and

repaying indebtedness under such facilities pursuant to the terms thereof are reasonable

and proper.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED:

1. That SCE&G is hereby granted a Certificate of Authority to replace and

modify the terms of its existing revolving credit facility and enter into the SCE&G

Facilities, under which it may borrow from time to time up to a maximum of

\$700,000,000 as described in the Application; to incur and repay such indebtedness under

such facilities pursuant to the terms thereof; and to issue notes evidencing such indebtedness.

- 2. That SCE&G's borrowings may remain outstanding until the SCE&G Facilities' final maturity dates.
- 3. That SCE&G is also authorized to periodically extend the maturity date of the SCE&G Facilities and to substitute participating lenders and to modify the terms of the SCE&G Facilities as market conditions may warrant.
- 4. That SCE&G is authorized to incur and pay the fees and expenses in connection with the negotiation, consummation or performance of the SCE&G Facilities or any extensions or modifications thereof.
- 5. That SCE&G is authorized to use borrowings under the SCE&G Facilities to provide liquidity to support the issuance and repayment of commercial paper and, solely or with other corporate funds, for interim financing of SCE&G's ongoing electric plant and gas facility construction, working capital requirements, and for general corporate purposes. In addition, SCE&G may continue to issue intermediate-term and long-term debt securities for these purposes, as authorized from time to time by this Commission.
- 6. That SCE&G is authorized to enter the Guaranty to support a revolving credit facility for SCFC, under which SCFC may borrow from time to time a maximum amount of \$400,000,000.

7. That SCE&G is authorized to enter into amendments to the Guaranty to cover periodic extensions of the SCFC Facility, modification of terms and the substitution of participating lenders as market conditions may warrant.

8. That approval of the Application does not bind the Commission as to the ratemaking treatment of these facilities or issuances thereunder.

9. That this Order shall not, in any way, affect or limit the right, duty, or jurisdiction of the Commission to further investigate and order revisions, modifications, or changes with respect to any provision of this Order in accordance with the law.

10. That this Order shall remain in full force and effect until further Order of the Commission.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

John E. Howard, Chairman

ATTEST:

David A. Wright, Vice Chairman

(SEAL)